

# Student Opposition Halts Death of 'Dot'

By Kevin R. Lang

NEWS EDITOR

After students protested in McDermott Court yesterday, President Charles M. Vest and the Department of Facilities have tentatively agreed to save the "Dot."

Facilities had announced over the weekend that temporary faculty offices (TFOs) would be built on the lawn between the Green Building and Walker Memorial to accommodate renovations to Building 18. The offices would be in place for at least three years.

In an e-mail message sent out Monday morning, Vest announced that the construction would be delayed after he received complaints from a number of students.

"The fact is that we have an urban campus and such informal space is in short supply," Vest said. "The McDermott Court work will be held up temporarily for one last review of options."

After meeting with students yesterday, Facilities revised their initial proposal.

"What we're looking at is a somewhat modified plan that would provide more grass space," said Facilities Director Victoria V. Sirianni. Facilities will hold a second meeting Wednesday morning with students and the architect, contractor, and chemistry department.

Facilities Communications Manager Ruth T. Davis said Facilities will be "putting the TFOs on the already paved part of McDermott."

Originally, construction was

scheduled to begin this summer, Davis said, but the Building Committee, which includes Vest, decided to put the TFOs up before the end of term.

## Meeting with students productive

Davis was pleased with the results of yesterday's meeting. "I thought it was great that the students expressed their concerns about losing green space on campus," Davis said.

However, she also noted that campus modifications could become more common in the near future. "People have to realize that over the next few years there is going to be a lot of construction on campus," Davis said. "People are going to be inconvenienced."

Vest acknowledged that "it is a fact that as we undertake badly needed improvements in our campus we are going to have to live with considerable disruption."

To avoid future conflicts with students over such projects, Facilities is looking to hire a second communications coordinator to handle community relations, among other things. "We're working on a communications strategy for the whole capital projects effort," Davis said. "We will definitely be looking for student input."

## Other locations considered

Sirianni stressed that Facilities had attempted to find other options

McDermott Court, Page 17



WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI — THE TECH

Students planted signs on McDermott court as part of their protest of administration plans to remove the grassy area known as the "Dot" in favor of temporary faculty offices.

# 'Dot' Plans Incite Student Protest

By Mike Hall

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Incensed students camped out on a sodden McDermott Court early yesterday morning, disgusted with the lack of communication from the administration over plans to build over their beloved turf.

Senior House resident Geeta Dayal '01 organized the protest over the weekend to prevent construction early Monday morning. Work was to begin on temporary facilities for Building 18 faculty and staff, who

will be displaced by renovations this summer. The construction is expected to last three years.

By the end of the day, organizers had over 500 signatures on a petition drafted by Payal P. Parekh G, and they reached a tentative agreement to preserve the "Dot," as it is commonly known.

Dayal said that protests will not resume today, since Department of Facilities Communications Manager Ruth T. Davis said via e-mail that no construction workers will be pre-

sent at the Dot.

## Admin silence draws greatest ire

Anand D. Sarwate '01, one of six students called to meet with representatives from Facilities, said that the lack of communication "is the underlying reason for the anger. The Dot is a convenient pretext for airing these grievances."

"I expected there to be a response from the administration,

Protest, Page 14

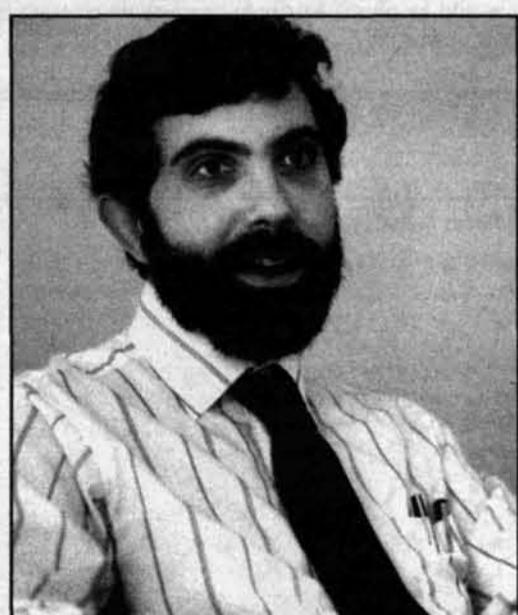
# Economist Leaves for Princeton

By Matthew Palmer

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Renowned economics Professor Paul R. Krugman PhD '77 will leave MIT to become a professor at Princeton University next fall.

Economics Department Head Olivier J. Blanchard '41 confirmed that Krugman will leave the Institute, but he will remain at MIT until the end of



Paul R. Krugman PhD '77

the academic year.

"He's one of the most brilliant economists alive," Blanchard said. "Of course he will be missed."

Krugman, a Ford International Professor of Economics, had served as a visiting professor at Princeton during the first term of this year.

## Krugman accomplished author, award winner

Krugman is the author or editor of 16 books and over 200 articles, mainly on the topics of international trade and finance. His works include *Peddling Prosperity* and *Pop Internationalism*.

He is widely known for helping to found the "new trade theory" of international commerce. The work earned Krugman the John Bates Clark Medal in 1991. The award is given by the American Economic Association every two years to an exceptional economist under 40.

Krugman also writes a weekly opinion column for *The New York Times*, and his articles have appeared in *Fortune* and *Slate* magazines.

After receiving his PhD from MIT in 1977, Krugman worked at Yale and Stanford, as well as the Institute.

On leave from MIT, Krugman worked in the White House as a member of the Council of Economic Advisors in 1982-1983.

## Economic views controversial

*The New York Times*, which has referred to Krugman as "a shoo-in for a future Nobel Prize," outlined

Krugman, Page 19

The Undergraduate Association tabled a motion to implement direct elections of councillors.

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Comics

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## OPINION

Eric J. Plosky compares PBS' "Antiques Roadshow" and ABC's "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?"

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## Spring rush continues this week

Spring rush will continue this week, with a number of FSILGs

Spring Rush, Page 17

# WORLD & NATION

## State Department Faces Shake Up In Wake of Security Breach

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright ordered a shake-up in the way her department protects national secrets Monday following the disappearance of a laptop computer loaded with classified information from a supposedly secure conference room.

"Like several other recent serious lapses in security, this is inexcusable and intolerable," Albright said of the loss of the computer, which contained classified information about weapons proliferation and other matters. "Such failures put our nation's secrets at risk. They also damage the department's reputation."

Albright ordered all of the department's supervisory personnel to conduct a thorough review of security procedures this week and called on all employees to attend annual refresher courses on safeguarding sensitive material.

She also resolved a simmering bureaucratic turf fight by declaring that the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, mainly a law enforcement organization, should have primary responsibility for security, rather than the department's in-house intelligence analysts.

## U.S. Foundations to Give \$100M To Promising African Universities

THE WASHINGTON POST

NEW YORK

Four of the nation's most well-endowed foundations announced a joint \$100 million investment Monday to help reform and revitalize higher education in select African countries in the largest-ever coordinated U.S. philanthropic effort on the continent.

Leaders of the Carnegie Corporation — along with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur, the Rockefeller and the Ford foundations — said they will coordinate with one another as well as with African educational leaders to focus grants that will strengthen universities that already have shown creative promise in their efforts to reform and expand.

The new thrust is designed to support higher education in countries where economic and political decentralization efforts are underway and to help expand the pool of Africans equipped to cope with the continent's many pressures, including the HIV epidemic, the fragility of democracy and the speed of the global economy that has largely passed Africa by.

## Police, Protesters Preparing For Democratic Convention

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES

With images of the disruptive protests during meetings of the World Trade Organization in Seattle and World Bank in Washington, D.C., still fresh in their minds, law enforcement authorities in Los Angeles are quietly launching a full-scale mobilization in preparation for this summer's Democratic Convention.

Local and national activists, too, are mobilizing for what some are dubbing "the Battle of Los Angeles," emboldened by their successes in winning international media attention while disrupting the economic summits on both coasts.

Both sides say they hope peace will prevail when Democratic leaders meet Aug. 14-17 at Staples Center to nominate Al Gore as the party's standard-bearer in the November presidential election.

But, just in case, both sides also are preparing for the worst.

The Los Angeles Police Department, the FBI, the Secret Service and a host of other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies have been working together for months to forge a cohesive response plan in case protests get out of hand.

## Making Split Decisions

Greg Lawson  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

April thus far has proven to be anomalously wet. It's already rained more than an inch in excess of what we typically expect for the entire month. It is clear that the dominant weather patterns have changed lately, accounting for the recent spell of grey, dreary weather. Explaining the change is more difficult than just noting it. For some reason we've entered a split-jet regime where the jet stream has split into two weakened jets flowing past an upper-level di-pole, that is a low and a high in very close proximity. The di-pole blocks the typical flow as it effectually tries to "swim upstream." This slows the upper-level steering winds which usually blow surface storms out to sea rather quickly, leaving us with slowly propagating, albeit weak, disturbances which are free to dump rain on us. However, the other consequence of a split jet is that storms are less likely to be steered up the east coast. A large storm over the Mid-Atlantic states which would usually certainly deliver us rain, is just going to toe the line with New England over the next couple days. It is likely that we won't be strongly threatened, but one cannot rule out chances for showers. Expect a 30 to 40 percent chance of showers over the next several days with temperatures remaining close to what they have been: highs in upper 40's and lows in the upper 30's

**Today:** Partly cloudy and cool. Northerly winds of moderate strength. High of 49°F (9°C).

**Tonight:** Cloudy and chilly. Northeasterly breeze. Low of 38°F (3°C)

**Wednesday:** Overcast and cool. Chances of showers. Northeasterly winds increasing in speed. High on only 43°F (6°C). Low of 40°F (4°C).

**Thursday:** Partly cloudy. Breezy. Chances of showers continue. High in low 50's (10 to 12°C). Low in the mid 40's (6 to 8°C).

## After Elian Gonzalez Raid, Republicans Seek Answers

By Richard T. Cooper

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Impassioned calls for congressional investigations and a storm of protest broke over Washington on Easter Sunday, following the raid by federal agents that reunited young Elian Gonzalez with his father.

Critics, predominantly Republicans, accused the Clinton administration and SWAT team agents of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of using excessive force and acting without court approval. Some charged the Clinton administration with spurning human rights and kowtowing to Fidel Castro by helping Juan Miguel Gonzalez take his boy back to Cuba.

And Elian's Miami relatives carried their high-profile crusade to Washington, demanding renewed access to their former charge. "Let me see this boy. I know this boy needs to see me, too," said Marisela González, a cousin who helped care for Elian in Miami.

She even suggested that a published photograph showing the 6-year-old smiling happily in his father's arms was a fake — a charge rejected by government officials and others who saw Elian here with his

father.

Government officials fired salvos in return. They charged Elian's Miami relatives with negotiating in bad faith, said that force was used only when all else had failed, and accused Republican critics of "Monday-morning quarterbacking at its worst," in the words of Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder.

All available evidence Sunday indicated that the reuniting of Elian with his father, infant brother and stepmother seemed to be proceeding amicably. The family is expected to spend several days in seclusion at Andrews Air Force Base in suburban Washington before relocating to the Wye Plantation conference center on Maryland's Chesapeake Bay, site of 1998 Mideast peace talks.

The few visitors who were allowed inside the sheltered quiet of what appears to be a small house on the grounds of the air base reported that Elian was playing happily, snuggling into his father's lap and even comforting his baby brother when he cried.

The Rev. Joan Brown Campbell, former secretary-general of the National Council of Churches and an adviser to Juan Miguel Gonzalez, said of Elian: "He had his arms

around his father, there was real affection there that cannot be manufactured. It was affection born of many, many years of caring."

"I'm a grandmother of seven children," Campbell said, "and I saw this little boy with his father for over 2 1/2 hours ... it's the way in which he comfortably crawls up on his father's lap, puts his arms around him, calls him Papa."

In Miami, quiet was restored after demonstrators protesting Elian's removal from Little Havana had roamed the streets Saturday, setting fires, throwing rocks and bottles and clashing with police. More than 350 were arrested.

And in Havana, Castro called Saturday "a day of glory for our people," and praised U.S. officials for reuniting Elian and his father.

But Holder expressed discomfort at finding himself on the same side of an issue as Castro. "All that Fidel Castro stands for is abhorrent to me. The decision, quite frankly, that Juan Miguel Gonzalez is making here is a different one than I would make, I suspect, for my child. But it is his right to raise his boy where he wants to, and that is all we were trying to do."

## Government, States May Ask Court to Break Up Microsoft

By James V. Grimaldi

THE WASHINGTON POST

The Justice Department and 19 states are leaning toward asking a court to split Microsoft Corp. into two or three separate companies in a plan designed to end the software giant's monopoly in the U.S. computer industry, people familiar with the discussions said over the weekend.

The drafting of a breakup plan marks a dramatic moment in the two-year lawsuit and only the first time since the 1974 antitrust lawsuit against AT&T Corp. that the federal government has considered such a drastic proposal for a corporate law-breaker.

Microsoft has vowed to appeal the April 3 verdict that it broke fed-

eral antitrust law and Sunday a spokesman said a breakup remedy would go too far.

"There is nothing in the case that was brought that would merit such an unfounded remedy and one that is not in the interest of the industry or of consumers," Microsoft spokesman Greg Shaw said. "It is difficult to know what's being floated as a trial balloon and what is something that all the parties will agree upon."

Under a Justice Department plan being shared with states and industry executives, Microsoft would be forced to split off the Windows operating system from the rest of the company, sources said. The Windows company would be permitted to include functions that per-

mit browsing of the Internet.

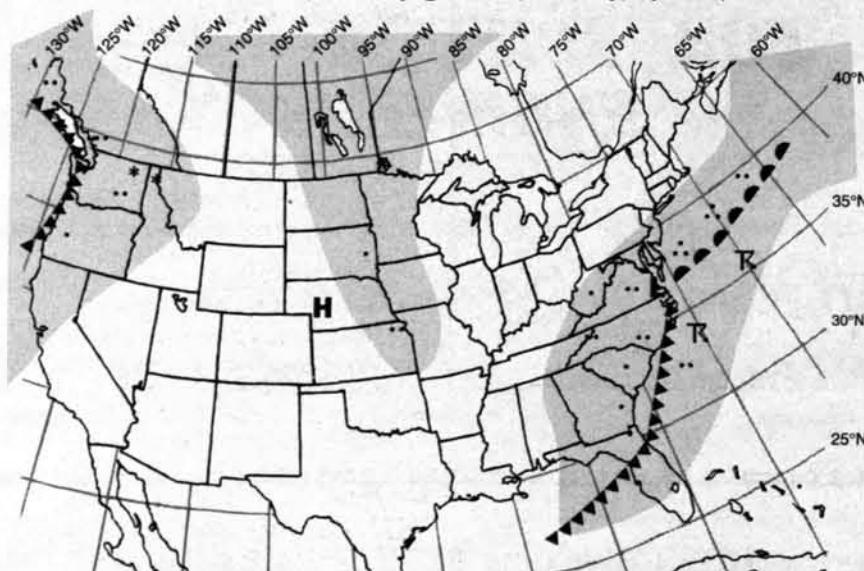
Microsoft then would be forced to spin off a second company that sells its software applications, such as a word processor and the Excel spreadsheet programs. That company also might get parts of the company that make the Internet browser, the software used to access the World Wide Web, sources said.

If Microsoft is divided into three companies, sources said, the third would be an Internet company that would get the browser and the Microsoft Network, which is the Internet service provider and Web portal that competes with America Online Inc. and other companies.

A breakup could tear down the barrier to competitors entering into competition with Windows.

## WEATHER

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Tuesday, April 25, 2000



Weather Systems		Weather Fronts		Precipitation Symbols		Other Symbols	
H	High Pressure	- - -	Trough	Snow	Rain	Fog	
L	Low Pressure	---	Warm Front	Shower	△	Thunderstorm	
S	Hurricane	▲▲▲	Cold Front	*	•	Haze	
		▲▲▲	Stationary Front	Moderate	**		
		▲▲▲		Heavy	◆◆		

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

# California's 'Blanket Primary' Considered by Supreme Court

By Joan Biskupic  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Supreme Court justices voiced concerns Monday that a new California primary law that allows voters to cast ballots across party lines might trample political parties' rights to choose their nominees.

The robust session focused on "blanket" primaries, the system in California and three other states that lets voters choose among all parties for each office on an election ballot. For example, voters can choose a Democratic nominee for president, a Republican nominee for governor, and a Libertarian one for lieutenant governor.

An eventual ruling also could affect about 20 states that hold so-called open primaries. Under that system, voters can decide on election day which primary they will

vote in.

In last February's Michigan GOP primary, Arizona Sen. John McCain defeated Texas Gov. George Bush with the support of Democrats and independents. McCain, who supports California's blanket primary law, is among the many politicians and political groups who have weighed in with "friend of the court" briefs in the closely watched case.

"The very essence of the party's First Amendment right," Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said Monday, "is to define its own message and decide its own candidates."

Under the California scheme, asserted Justice Antonin Scalia, voters have "absolutely no commitment to a political party, not even for a day." When California special assistant attorney general Thomas Gede said voters want their candidates to

be "more representative" of a broader spectrum of the electorate, Scalia declared: "That's democracy carried to the extreme."

The case pits a state's interest in boosting turnout and offering voters more choices against political parties' ability to choose their nominees. Californians approved the blanket primary in a 1996 ballot measure with nearly 60 percent of the vote, and it took effect in 1998. Only three other states — Alaska, Louisiana and Washington — hold such primaries.

The state's Democratic Party, Republican Party, Libertarian Party and Peace and Freedom Party challenged the system as an infringement of their First Amendment freedom to associate. They claimed crossover voting permits outsiders to elect a party's nominee and determine its ideology.

## U.N. Charges U.S. Action Blocks Nuclear Disarmament Progress

By Colum Lynch  
THE WASHINGTON POST

NEW YORK

After years of championing international attempts to halt the spread of nuclear weapons, the United States found itself on the defensive Monday as a broad alliance of arms control advocates, senior U.N. officials and diplomats from non-nuclear countries charged that Washington is blocking progress toward disarmament.

Delegates at a U.N. conference reviewing compliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty said the United States and the four other declared nuclear powers — Russia, Britain, France and China — have not lived up to their obligation to reduce and eventually eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

Under the 30-year-old treaty, 182 countries that did not possess atomic weapons agreed to abandon any ambition to build them. In return, the five acknowledged nuclear powers agreed not to share nuclear weapons technology with non-nuclear states and promised to take steps toward disarmament. Only four countries — India, Pakistan, Israel and Cuba — have not signed the treaty.

Washington was accused of backsliding on its obligations by failing to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which the Senate defeated last year; refurbishing old nuclear weapons; keeping a "war reserve" of plutonium triggers from dismantled warheads; and recommitting itself to maintain a nuclear balance of terror.

U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan also warned that a U.S. effort to build a National Missile Defense system would jeopardize the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia and "could well lead to a new arms race."

"Some 30,000 nuclear weapons remain in the arsenals of the nuclear powers, with thousands still on hair-trigger alert," Annan said in an opening address to the conference, which is held every five years. "We have witnessed the reaffirmation of the nuclear weapons doctrines of all the nuclear-weapons states."

Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright defended the U.S. record, saying America has dismantled about 60 percent of its Cold War nuclear arsenal and will seek further reductions in new talks with Russia.

## Gunmen Take Foreign Tourists Hostage Off Malaysian Coast

THE WASHINGTON POST

JAKARTA, INDONESIA

Masked gunmen abducted 20 people, most of them foreign tourists, from a resort island off Malaysia's Borneo coast and spirited them away on fishing boats in a bizarre kidnapping that authorities said Monday could be connected to an Islamic insurgency in the southern Philippines.

Malaysian Defense Minister Najib Razak said that an air and sea search operation located the boats carrying the captive tourists Monday night, 24 hours after the abduction, and that the hostages apparently had not been harmed. His Philippine counterpart, Orlando Mercado, said the gunmen and their hostages appeared to be sailing for the southern Philippines, the scene of a secessionist guerrilla war, and that the Philippine Navy will coordinate with the Malaysian Navy to try to intercept the boats and free the captives.

The half-dozen attackers, who were armed with AK-47 assault rifles and a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, burst into the restaurant of a resort on Malaysia's Sipadan Island on Sunday night, taking cash and jewelry from the hostages before forcing them to swim to two fishing boats anchored offshore, Malaysian Police Inspector General Norian Mai told reporters.

Two Americans were part of the tourist group — composed mostly of scuba divers — but they escaped and hid in nearby woods as the others were herded to the boats and carried away into the night on the Celebes Sea. Malaysian officials said the hostages included nine Malaysians, three Germans, two Frenchmen, two South Africans, two Finns, one Lebanese and one Filipino.

## In Race for House, Some Challengers Outraise Incumbents

THE WASHINGTON POST

A surprising number of challengers in House races have collected substantial sums of money, upsetting the conventional wisdom that only incumbents can attract significant interest from contributors early on during a congressional campaign.

In what is already the costliest House contest in the nation, California state Sen. Adam Schiff, a Democrat, has raised \$1.9 million and has nearly as much cash as his opponent, GOP Rep. James E. Rogan. Trying to regain his old New Jersey House seat, former Republican representative Dick Zimmer has collected nearly \$1 million, including thousands from political action committees that traditionally focus on incumbents.

The fundraising success of challengers and of candidates vying for seats where there is no incumbent seeking reelection — known as open seats — is a striking feature of this hotly competitive campaign year, particularly for Democrats. All told, 20 Democratic challengers or candidates seeking open seats have raised at least \$500,000 so far, compared with three at this point in the 1998 elections, according to campaign disclosure reports filed this month. Sixteen nonincumbent Democrats each has more than \$400,000 cash on hand, compared with one in 1998.

Challengers have traditionally found it difficult to come anywhere near incumbents in fundraising, because savvy donors usually see such campaigns as a waste of their money.



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## Athletics Town Meeting

Wednesday, April 26th

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6-120

An open forum to voice your questions, concerns and desires with the Athlet Dept. and Chancellor Bacow. The discussion will focus on Club sport, Intramurals and individual fitness. Students, staff and faculty invited.

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# OPINION

## The 'Dot' Safe... For Now



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When students gathered on McDermott Court early yesterday morning to protest construction on the grassy east campus area known as the "Dot," they not only preserved a valuable piece of campus green space, but also scored a long-overdue victory in their fight to represent student interests to the administration.

The organizers of the protest, especially Geeta Dayal '01, deserve the thanks of the entire student body for saving the Dot and reminding the administration that student voices must be heard in decisions that affect student life.

President Charles M. Vest also deserves commendation for wisely reconsidering the decision to replace the Dot with temporary faculty offices (TFOs). *The Tech* hopes that the decision to restrict TFO construction to the paved areas of McDermott Court endures for the entire duration of the *temporary* project. In addition, Vest's personal appearance at the protest demonstrates the sort of openness and communication that should always exist between administrators and students.

However, Director of Facilities Victoria Sirianni exercised exceedingly poor judgment in electing to raze the Dot in the first place. The decision demonstrates, once again, an utter lack

### Editorial

The organizers of the protest,

of long-term planning: those who remember Building 20 know MIT's record with "temporary" buildings. More importantly, the move shows how little administrators understand the lives of the students they are charged with serving. Decisions like this one show the ever-present need for administrators to interact with the student body in some more meaningful, productive forum than Institute Committees and focus groups.

Student leaders are also to blame for making necessary herculean efforts such as yesterday's protest — several were aware of this decision long before students found out through widely distributed e-mail messages, and they should have taken the initiative to block construction, or at least to alert the student body. It's important for our elected student leaders to take strong stands on controversial issues early on: when they act as junior administrators, contributing to campus closed-mouthedness, we're all in trouble.

Admittedly, the location of Building 18 makes the Facilities Department's job of finding adjacent space for chemistry faculty more difficult, but certainly a better solution could have been found if an intelligent planning process had been used, with enough time and preparation to consult the student body and then to collaboratively devise the best possible overall solution.

## Letter To The Editor

### McDermott Court Must Be Preserved

*The Tech received a copy of this letter, addressed to Department of Facilities Communications Manager Ruth T. Davis.*

The grassy circle of McDermott Court is one of the nicest areas on campus. During warm weather, dozens of students congregate there for lunch. It's a popular spot for volleyball games, Ultimate, and canine frisbee. Surrounded on all sides by concrete and steel, the grassy area is one of the few pleasant spots remaining on the east side of campus, and is a vital center of social and sports activity for people who live and work in the area.

The area is important for the Institute, as well; it hosts pavilions during graduation and reunion, and is the site of the annual Vendor's Fair. On Friday, I received an e-mail from you, announcing that the courtyard's lawn would be stripped this Monday to make way for temporary structures to house temporary faculty offices. I object strongly to both this action and to your method of announcing it.

Green space at MIT, particularly on the east side of campus, is far too scarce to be destroyed senselessly. Pleasant spots on cam-

pus need to be preserved, even if other options are more expensive.

If destroying the court was an unavoidable consequence of campus improvement (as, arguably, the removal of the parkland near East Garage for Building 20 construction was), I wouldn't be writing this. But the alternative solution to the lack of office space is so easy! Simply rent out office space in the Kendall Square area. Yes, it's expensive, but so is a new building. Yes, office space is in high demand, but large amounts of new office space have been built in the last year, with even more under construction. Yes, Kendall Square is a bit far from Building 18 (whose professors, I infer, are to be moved), but Course XII, my department, has been split between Buildings 54 and E34 forever, so I have little sympathy.

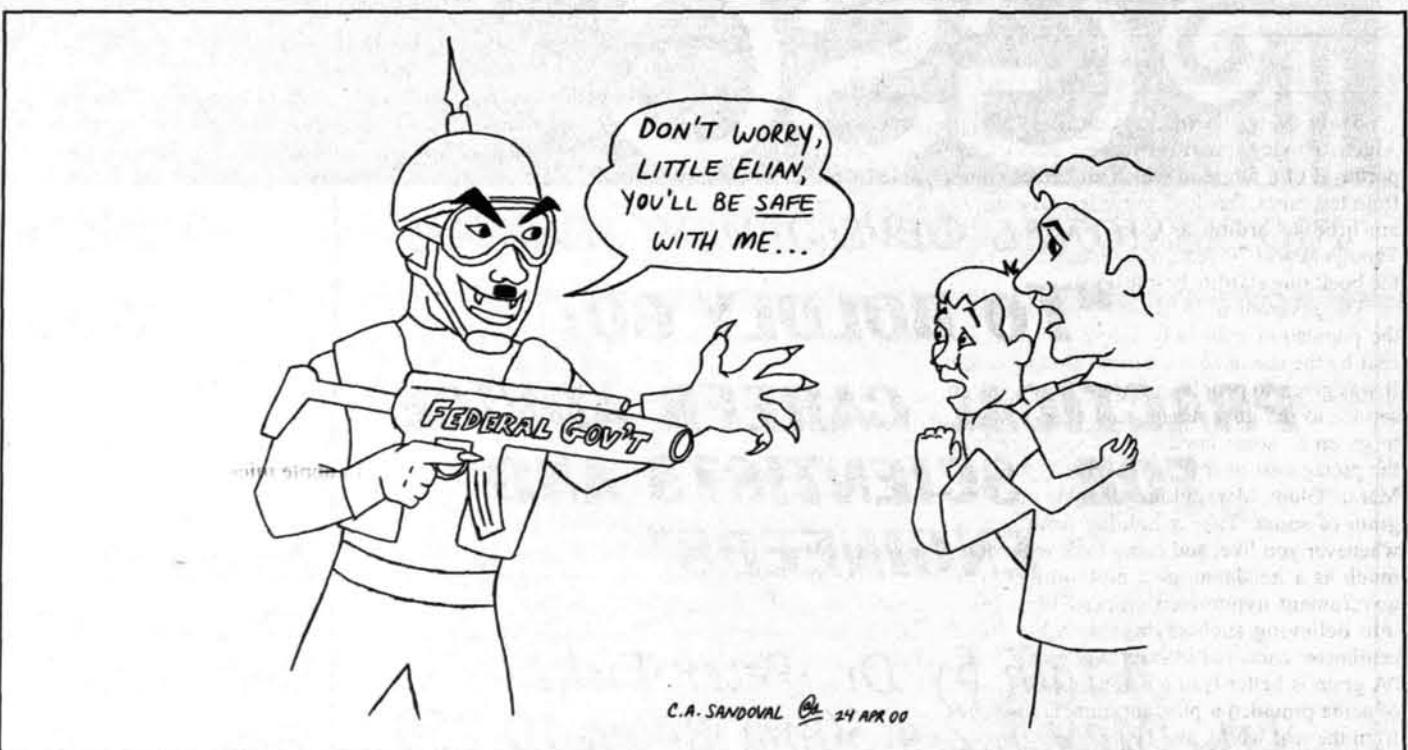
If the offices must be built on campus, why can't they be put on the plaza between Buildings 18 and 54, which is already bricked over, rather than in the grass? Or perhaps you could build in the parking area near E32-E34, offering incentives to those who give up their parking spots? Even better, why not wait until the Stata Center is completed in 2002, when you'll have tons of extra space, before renovating Building 18?

Your actions as "Communications Manag-

er" for Facilities have been unwise at best, Machiavellian at worst. Most of the people on campus received no warning that the area was to be destroyed; I suppose those of us who work in the Green Building must be grateful for your message, but with only a weekend's warning, there's little we can do about it now. You say you'll publish an article about the destruction in next Wednesday's *Tech Talk*. What good is that? The news will be printed plainly in shredded turf and ravaged dirt on the face of the Circle by then. You have apparently made no attempt to ask the community their opinion on the issue. You and your superiors are either deliberately preventing the MIT community from helping to make decisions about their living and working space, or you are neglecting your duty to keep the community informed.

I am sending this to *The Tech*, fully aware that *The Tech* is printed on Tuesday, while you're sending in the bulldozers on Monday. Perhaps my message will be a hollow reminder of yet another incident of institutional short-sightedness and inconsideration. Or perhaps, if the earthmovers don't arrive, it'll demonstrate that the administration does listen to the people it serves. The choice is up to you and your superiors.

Jason C. Goodman G



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Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, news editors, and opinion editors.

Dissents are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Columns and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the news-

es, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express prior approval of *The Tech*. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

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Letters to the editor are welcome. Electronic submissions are encouraged and may be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions may be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

# Like Thieves in the Night

*Mass. House Guts Clean Government Laws as Members Drink and Doze*

Michael J. Ring

Massachusetts state government is once again embroiled in scandal in the wake of a *Boston Herald* story detailing a night of drinking and partying on Beacon Hill, as the House of Representatives sat in an all-night session considering the state budget.

The newspaper described an atmosphere of debauchery and revelry on Beacon Hill that night, as members retired to committee offices to drink and party or fell asleep at their desks in the House chamber. One member sponsored a beer and wine tasting. Another is rumored to have had his leg shaven after he fell asleep. Members chanted "Toga!" as one representative gave an emotional speech on a gun-control amendment. And an abuse the *Herald* terms as "phantom voting" appears to have been widespread as court officers voted for members who were asleep or absent from the chamber.

The drunken spree, continuing well into the wee hours of the morning, was absolutely inappropriate, and the unprofessional behavior of the representatives involved should give all Bay Staters pause. Constituents are owed an apology by the legislators involved. Representatives, knowing full well the recent scandals surrounding Big Dig management and Lieutenant Governor Jane Swift's personal use of state resources, should be acting with extreme caution to project an image of state government as honest and trustworthy. Clearly, they have failed.

But beyond the headlines about partying and pranks, even more serious breaches of the public trust have emerged from this year's budget process. The flap over phantom voting, as well as the insertion of sweeping amendments designed to undercut the state's clean-elections and lobbying laws, demonstrate the clear need to change the way by which the House conducts its business. And the responsibility to make those changes must fall squarely at the feet of Speaker Thomas Finneran — whose authoritarian leadership style is clearly hampering debate in the House.

An unknown individual cast unauthorized votes in the name of Representative Kevin Murphy after the representative had left the State House early Friday morning to catch a flight to South Carolina. Anecdotal evidence indicates that unauthorized votes were cast in the names of several other sleeping or absent

representatives. House policy rightly limits proxy voting to an extreme set of circumstances. Only members who have physical disabilities, or members who are serving as acting speaker and must remain at the rostrum, may vote by proxy as prescribed in the House rules.

However, Finneran conceded last week he allows court officers to vote for members who are in meetings during roll calls. The speaker, after an angry initial response to the *Herald* stories, decided to probe the proxy allegations after learning of the votes cast in Murphy's absence. This investigation must consider the wide berth with which Finneran allows proxy voting. It is hardly burdensome to ask members to leave a meeting for a moment to cast a vote themselves — our federal representatives in Washington do so all the time. Voting for one's constituents is the ultimate duty of our representatives, and this sham of proxy voting, which is so obviously open to tainting and corruption, must be stopped.

Finneran will also probe whether to end all-night sessions on the budget. But House rules already prohibit debate after 10 p.m., and one Finneran dissenter, liberal Democratic Representative Christopher Hodgkins, noted it was Finneran who allowed the 10 p.m. rule to be suspended in the first place.

And then there is the matter of changes to the state's elections and ethics laws. The shameful votes preceded by little debate to gut these good-government statutes are an example of government at its worst, and Finneran and his lieutenants should be ashamed of their actions.

The Clean Elections law, passed overwhelmingly by voters as a referendum in November 1998, sets up a system of public funding of candidates who agree to strict spending limits. House and Senate leaders, however, have dragged their feet on its implementation for the past year and a half, and the House's action would require the law be suspended until the House and Senate could study its fiscal implications — a move effectively killing the law and sustaining the status quo of rampant, uncontrolled campaign spending in Massachusetts. This gem was attached to the budget on a voice vote with barely any debate.

Also quietly slipped into the budget is a provision that would soften the state's strict lobbyist regulations. Under this rider a lobbyist could hide certain costs, including some dinners with members of the Legisla-

ture. The necessity of the current regulations is shown by the case of ex-speaker Charles Flaherty, whose cozy relations with lobbyists cost him his job and earned him a court conviction. There is real reason to fear repeal of these provisions would return the House to the old days of easy lobbyist access to legislation.

Since becoming speaker after Flaherty's resignation, Finneran has ruled the House with an iron fist, having little tolerance for dissent. While he is certainly entitled to use his position to advance his own causes, Finneran must ensure he is doing so in a fair and just manner. Attaching riders to the budget late at night, when most representatives are barely (if even) awake, and allowing little debate on amendments that would squelch strong reform laws, is not government in good faith.

But ultimately, the rank-and-file House members are at fault as well for their unwillingness to challenge Finneran's autocratic style. Over the past several years both liberal Democrats and Republicans have grown restless with Finneran's leadership but seem unwilling to challenge the speaker. Republicans, whose votes actually elevated Finneran to the position of speaker over a liberal Democrat, are afraid to challenge Finneran since they know the next speaker would probably be more liberal. Liberal Democrats, meanwhile, are afraid to speak out for fear of watching Finneran and his lieutenants kill their pet projects.

And there, apparently, is the drive to drink. As one House Democrat told the *Herald*, "There certainly was no reason for anyone to remain sober, because there was nothing for us to contribute." Finneran and Company were calling all the shots, and voices of debate and dissent were to be left at the door.

The House is now left with two options if it is to regain credibility with the voters. Either Finneran himself apologizes for this month's debacle and places new rules or enforces existing rules barring late-night sessions, limiting proxy voting, and guaranteeing debate and roll-call votes on serious matters, or dissenters in both parties reach across ideological differences and make these changes for the speaker.

In any case, it is high time the Massachusetts House stopped acting like thieves in the night, with members trashing the laws which ensure their proper conduct and behavior while their constituents are sound asleep.

# Staving Off 'Roadshow' Scandal

Eric J. Plosky

Most of us have heard stories of the lucky guy who found an original, mint-condition G.I. Joe in his attic (or of the poor schmuck whose mother unwittingly threw out a 1952 Mickey Mantle baseball card). It's exciting to think that thousands of dollars may lurk somewhere in our piles of old crap.

Enter "Antiques Roadshow."

As is well known by now, the popular PBS series travels the country with a passel of antiques appraisers in tow, evaluating on the spot trinkets ranging from Tiffany jewelry to ancient Chinese pottery. There's a certain level of excitement in watching a bow-tied expert describe in detail the history of some knick-knack, some significant entertainment in watching a frowsy Midwesterner leaning over the table, waiting to hear the final analysis. Will the alleged Steiff teddy bear turn out to be the real thing, or a cheap knock-off? Is it worth a hundred dollars? A thousand? Ten thousand?

One famous segment involved a rather nondescript sword brought onto the show in 1997. The owner claimed to have used it, in his youth, to slice watermelons. Appraiser George Juno excitedly declared the sword a remarkable Civil War find worth \$35,000, and instructed the bewildered owner to handle it in the future only while wearing white gloves. This was classic "Roadshow" — an unassuming piece of rust, brought in by an owner who figured "What the hell; guess I'll see if this is worth anything," turns out to be a portable Brinks truck.

Trouble is, that quintessential segment was faked. The *Boston Herald* recently investigated; turns out, the appraiser had orchestrated

*Bang goes the myth of "Roadshow"? Is an orchestrated appraisal tantamount to the "Twenty One" game-show scandal of the 1950s?*

the entire appraisal. This wasn't Joe Q. Public stumbling onto an attic goldmine; this was a scheme by a businessman to cook up some free publicity for himself.

Bang goes the myth of "Roadshow"? Is the Juno incident tantamount to the "Twenty One" game-show scandal of the 1950s, which revealed that contestants had been prepped in advance?

It seems valid to compare "Roadshow" to game shows; both depend upon the notion that viewers can see themselves in the chair, ultimately walking away with vast quantities of cash. In many ways, "Roadshow" is even more appealing than ABC's hit Regis Philbin show, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" — though "Millionaire's" questions are mostly moronic, it still seems inaccessible to viewers who may nonetheless watch an episode of "Roadshow" and then eye the family heirloom in the china cabinet.

When the curtain is unexpectedly drawn back, and the magic-making proved false, there would seem little reason to continue watching the show. Motivated to keep its hit alive, and prodded by an embarrassed sponsor, the Public Broadcasting Service soon moved to declare the sword incident an anomaly; PBS severed its contact with appraiser Juno, and went as far as to edit his appearances out of videotapes and reruns. "[We are] committed to protecting the reputation of 'Antiques Roadshow' and maintaining the trust of viewers, public TV stations and funders," said Peter McGhee, an executive at Boston-based station WGBH, which produces "Roadshow."

Can we believe him? Just last week, the *Herald* reported that WGBH had pulled another segment; this one, due to be aired soon, involved a 17th-century Milanese helmet supposedly worth \$250,000. A general "Roadshow" crackdown is now underway to make sure that the Grover Cleveland correspondence and cast-iron 1890s penny banks brought on the show really are hidden treasures, not publicity stunts.

I hope PBS is able to pull "Roadshow" from scandal quicksand. After all, I'm only watching to see if any of my old crap might be worth thousands. If some rube from Dullsville can trot out a dusty old chair that turns out to be worth ten grand, there's hope in all our attics.

## Over-the-Counter Herbal Hazards

Veena Thomas

*Brave New World*, written in 1932 by Aldous Huxley, provided readers a shocking portrayal of a future in which all babies come from test tubes, free love prevails, and citizens are bred according to letter-graded castes. Though almost 70 years old, certain aspects of the book ring startlingly true now.

The government in *Brave New World* kept the population artificially happy and complacent by the use of soma, a mind-altering drug. It was given to people in reward for excellent service to the government, and allowed them to go on a "soma holiday." As someone told the protagonist of *Brave New World*, Bernard Marx, "Glum, Marx, glum what you need is a gram of soma. Take a holiday from reality whenever you like, and come back without so much as a headache or a mythology." The government hypnotized citizens from birth into believing such sayings as "One cubic centimeter cures ten gloomy sentiments," and "A gram is better than a damn." Little tablets of soma provided a pleasant, mindless escape from the real world, and kept society complacent and docile. At any sign of unhappiness, people instinctively took a little soma, and escaped their troubles.

Frightening, isn't it? The use of a government-sanctioned, mood-altering drug keeps an entire population of people artificially, chemically happy. People are urged to never feel unhappy, and to quickly remedy the situation by the use of other substances.

Modern psychiatric medicine prescribes drugs such as Prozac to those people who feel down or depressed due to chemical imbalances in their brain. Prozac is an example of a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI), meaning it works by blocking the reuptake of serotonin in the synaptic clefts after it has been released. This allows serotonin to remain present longer after the firing of neurons, producing an effectively greater

concentration of serotonin. For people with naturally low levels of serotonin, which often results in depression or feelings of despair, drugs like Prozac prove to be the solution to let them lead a normal, happier life. Available by prescription only, Prozac should only be used in those cases where it is medically necessary.

But what about the rest of us, who have normal levels of serotonin but still aren't satisfied with the ups and downs of daily life? For those people, the latest industry craze is St. John's Wort, touted as a natural, herbal way to lift your mood. The pretty little yellow flowers on the St. John's Wort plant seem innocent enough. In reality, however, St. John's Wort acts as a mild SSRI, like a gentler form of Prozac.

You'd think that a mild form of Prozac would be heavily regulated by the government to prevent excess and potentially unsafe usage. However, exactly the opposite holds true. No regulation of St. John's Wort exists. The Food and Drug Administration cannot regulate what it deems as "herbal supplements." Therefore, no safe dosage has been established, the claims of St. John's Wort have not been officially tested, and manufacturers and distributors of St. John's Wort are free to do as they please, make outrageous claims, and sell dosages as large as they wish.

Since when does being "herbal" make something safe? Once the drug Ecstasy was banned, another commercially available drug called "Herbal Ecstasy" [sic] was heralded as its substitute. The "natural" ingredients in Herbal Ecstasy and its wide availability lead many to believe in the safety of the drug. However, nothing could be farther from the truth. The drug, while containing plant-derived substances, is far more dangerous than your garden variety mint sprigs. It has been cited in the death of at least one person, and is responsible for adverse effects in hundreds of other people. Yet the FDA cannot

regulate it, because it still qualifies as an "herbal supplement."

People need to stop believing that anything "natural" is completely safe to use casually, and they need to use a bit more caution before consuming herbal products. Otherwise, the social repercussions can be downright scary.

Consider the Fresh Samantha line of beverages, which believes in using only natural ingredients in their juices. "We believe that Fresh Samantha Juices must bring joy and health to the human body and soul," reads the propaganda on their website, <http://www.freshsamantha.com>. Perhaps that's why they created "Oh, Happy Day," a mixture of apple juice, bananas, blackberries, and blueberries. Oh, and St. John's Wort, 0.05 grams per serving. The label on the back of the bottle explains that they formulated the drink because people in Maine seemed so down in the wintertime and they wanted to make something to cheer them up. Somehow slipping mind-altering substances into their drinks doesn't seem to be the way to go.

What if, Oh, Happy Day contained 0.05 grams of Prozac per serving? Imagine the furor and controversy it would cause. Why not so with St. John's Wort, if both substances have the same effect? One bottle of Oh, Happy Day contains two servings, for a total of 0.1 grams of St. John's Wort per bottle. So then are ten bottles of Oh, Happy Day better than a damn? If "one cubic centimeter cures ten gloomy sentiments," can one bottle of Oh, Happy Day cure a single gloomy sentiment?

Mind-altering substances, herbal or not, should not be allowed to run rampant in our food and drink. Otherwise we enter into the kind of society predicted by Huxley nearly 70 years ago, except that people drink a little Fresh Samantha now and then instead of soma to escape from reality. It's a scary new world, indeed.

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# FEATURES

## Operation Smile

*Program Offers a Normal Life for Children Born with Congenital Deformities*

By Anirban Nayak

What if you were born with cleft lips and lived in a society where people with such deformities are considered a curse?

That was the predicament faced by a Liberian girl. When she was born harelipped, neighbors feared that she might bring bad luck and suggested that she be abandoned in the jungles. Mercifully, her family did not heed the suggestion.

"Such cases are common in the developing world," said plastic surgeon Lawrence Kurtzman, while addressing a group of MIT pre-medical students during the Independent Activities Period.

In many developing countries where superstitions abound, people with congenital deformities are often stigmatized, and expensive reconstructive surgery is usually not available to them.

Then, in 1982, Operation Smile (OS) came and brought some hope to the afflicted. This organization, based in Norfolk, Virginia, enabled a team of plastic surgeons, anesthesiologists, pediatricians, ophthalmologists, dentists, and nurses to visit developing countries and perform medical treatments, including reconstructive surgery, at no charge to the patients.

Dr. Kurtzman has been involved with OS since 1986. He has been on 15 medical missions thus far in places such as the Philippines, Vietnam, Liberia, Ghana, Kenya, Columbia, and Nicaragua. For the last six years, Kurtzman has served as OS team leader, performing hundreds of surgeries on children with deformities. These operations have enabled many young people to come out of seclusion, attend school, and lead more normal lives.

Kurtzman's team visits the developing world usually once or twice a year for about two weeks at a time. The team members work hard, putting in 14-hour days and performing some 150 surgeries. Usually they correct cleft

lips and palates and graft skin onto burn victims. However, during some of his visits, Kurtzman has also rectified syndactyl (webbed) fingers, removed obtrusive tumors from people's faces, and rebuilt facial parts destroyed by diseases.

Sometimes a person's deformities are so severe that he will need several complicated operations. One such case involved a teenage boy from the Philippines.

"His entire nose and upper lip were eaten away by a combination of infection and malnutrition," said Kurtzman. The boy was flown to the US to undergo extensive reconstructive surgery.

"He went back to the Philippines [and] became kind of a hero in his community. Since then he has gotten married, has had children, and has become one of our biggest advocates in that country. It was really exciting to see such a dramatic change in his life," added Kurtzman.

The good work that the OS team does in developing countries is not limited to surgery. One of its jobs is dispelling native superstitions on congenital deformities. In addition, it must often educate the locals on nutrition and dental hygiene. Furthermore, Kurtzman's team frequently finds itself teaching local doctors and nurses various operating techniques and procedures so that they can continue to help patients after the OS team departs.

While in the developing world, the OS surgeons work under conditions that are far from ideal. Accustomed to working in the best of facilities in the US and with the latest technology, this team must adapt to working in over-crowded hospitals with poor ventilation and equipment. In fact, once during a blackout, Kurtzman had to perform surgery with the aid of flashlights right in the hospital hallway.

Moreover, the equipment with which the OS surgeons have to operate is often recycled. This is because many hospitals in developing

*"Here [in US hospitals] everything is disposable, everything is thrown away. What we throw away in a day here, they'll use it there for months."*

—Lawrence Kurtzman



—THE TECH

**Dr. Lawrence Kurtzman of Operation Smile.**

countries lack the funds for new supplies.

"Here [in US hospitals] everything is disposable, everything is thrown away. What we throw away in a day here, they'll use it there for months," maintained Kurtzman. In one Filippino hospital, for example, used disposable gloves are washed, repaired, sterilized, and reused.

What is more frustrating to the team than the adverse working conditions is that it cannot operate on everyone who seeks its help. There simply isn't enough manpower or time to accommodate everyone during a two-week stay.

Despite the obstacles, Kurtzman loves visiting and working in the developing world. He said, "It's just so interesting to go to these countries, not from a medical standpoint, but from a humanitarian standpoint and from a psychosocial standpoint — just to meet people and see what the rest of the world's like."

Kurtzman added that the people in developing countries are some of the friendliest and that they tend to be very creative with limited resources. He also maintained, "Being involved with Operation Smile has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my life."

*Operation Smile is a charitable organization that depends primarily on corporate sponsorships. For more information or to get involved, contact its Boston chapter at 951-1162.*

## For the Students, By the Students

*Nightline Provides Counseling, Information, and Support Services*

By Aaron D. Mihalik

ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

Since its start on November 1, 1978, Nightline has been providing the community with listening and information services through their hotline. From 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., two nightline staffers are waiting to take calls from the MIT community.

Nightline receives two types of calls — "information" calls and "listening" or "counseling" calls. While the number of calls varies throughout the year, typically Nightline receives 10-15 information calls and "maybe 2" serious calls a night, said a Nightline student coordinator, who preferred to remain anonymous. Serious calls range from "students being stressed out" to calls that deal with "serious issues — as serious as suicide," the coordinator said.

"There is a huge range of reasons that people might call up," said Kimberly G. McGlothin, the primary advisor for Nightline and the Assistant Dean of Counseling and Support Services. People can call up to talk about a number of topics including "depression, academic stress, [or] difficulties with relationships," said McGlothin. Or "anything that might be giving a person difficulty."

If a caller is seeking counseling, Nightline provides them with an anonymous and confidential place to talk. Also, Nightline is completely student staffed. "We recognize that we are not professionals," said the coordinator. But we "try to talk the person through the situation ... and we do our best to understand what the person is going through."

People can also call Nightline to ask for information. "It can be anything [like] the phone number of some other resource on campus," said McGlothin.

### Anonymity and Secrecy

Nightline continues to keep its reputation as a very secret organization. Over the years, Nightline has moved locations and changed its phone number several times to retain its secrecy. The reason why Nightline remains secretive is "not because we want to be a secret organization," said the coordinator, but because "anonymity is crucial to the work we are doing."

The identity of the Nightline listeners is protected and kept private. This privacy "adds to the sense of safety and anonymity on both ends," said McGlothin. Having the identity of the listeners kept private is for listeners' protection. Nightline is available to people outside of the MIT community. "One of the concerns ... is the safety and the comfort of the

## This Week in MIT History

On April 30, 1991 the Saferide shuttle van service began. The Tech ran the following story describing the new program. Since then, Saferide has expanded to four shuttles covering Boston and Cambridge.

Beginning next Monday, Campus Police officers will no longer be primarily responsible for providing safe nighttime transportation in marked police cruisers.

That day marks the debut of the new safety shuttle van, "A Safe Ride," which will offer members of the MIT community rides every night between campus, perimeter MIT buildings and all recognized living groups.

"We're starting this as a pilot program," said Jennifer B. Singer '92, co-chair of the Undergraduate Association's Campus Safety Committee, which proposed the idea of the service. Singer said she expected the shuttle service to be "overwhelmingly successful."

The 12-passenger van will cover territory similar to what is

already being covered by Campus Police escorts, according to Campus Police Chief Anne P. Glavin. The main difference, Glavin said, is that the van will serve independent living groups in Boston as well as those near Central Square. "That's the best thing about this," she said.

"It won't go to Central Square for a pizza," Glavin said. "That isn't the purpose of the van." She said safety is the top reason for the van; convenience is secondary.

The shuttle will operate between 6 p.m. and 3 a.m. Sunday through Wednesday, and until 4 a.m. Thursday to Saturday. Singer said the phone number for shuttle service is 253-2997.

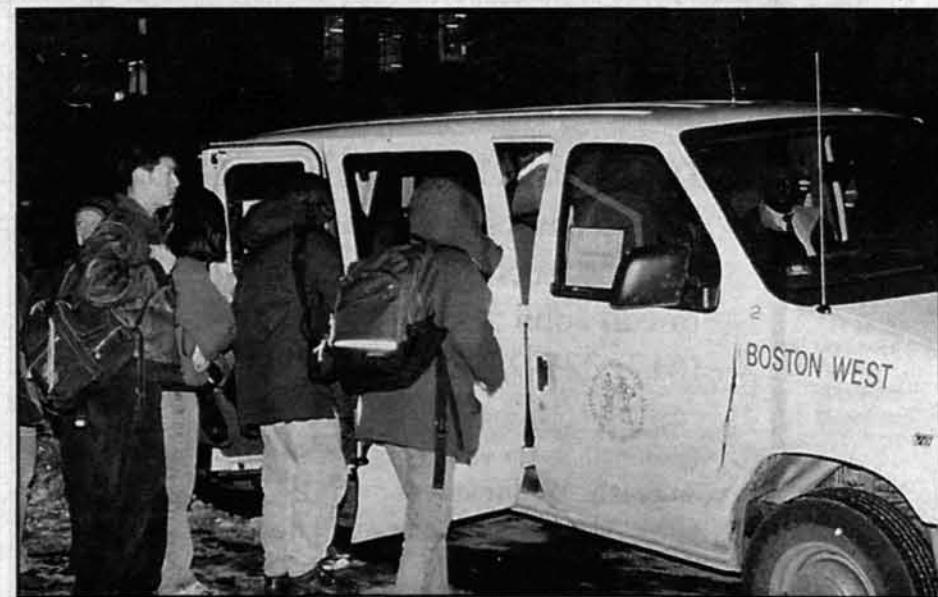
The \$20,000 van was purchased by the Department of Housing and Food Services, Singer said. The provost's office will bear operation costs, including the wages of three drivers, according to Provost Mark S. Wrighton, who added that he expected costs for the first year to be \$50,000. Campus Police will provide radio equipment and dispatchers, Glavin said.

"We hope it's used," Wrighton said. "The cost per ride is better when it's used."

Glavin said the van will take some load off the Campus Police officers. "With the other things they had to do, they just couldn't keep up," she said. The officers will continue to provide escort service outside the hours of shuttle operation.

If the shuttle is as successful as Singer hopes, more vans will be purchased, she said. Set routes and times will be arranged as well. Until then, MIT students, faculty and staff can enjoy on-call service, she added.

The shuttle service had been delayed repeatedly over recent months by complications in the hiring procedures for drivers and trouble finding vans of the correct size. The safety committee stipulated last year that drivers not have a criminal record of any kind, said Judith L. Yanowitz '91, co-chair of the committee.



TECH FILE PHOTO

Saferide has been saving students a cold walk across the Harvard Bridge since 1991.

**DEF  
3**

**TUV  
8**

**TUV  
8**

**OPER  
0**

**OPER  
0**

# Nightline Provides Confidentiality, Anonymity

**Nightline**, from Page 7

staffers," said McGlothin. Not publishing Nightline's location and the identity of the listeners is important to retain that security, said McGlothin.

Also, the listener does not know the identity of the caller. During the advent of Automatic Number Identification (caller ID), Nightline wrote a number of letters to *The Tech*, stressing that their phones are not equipped with this feature. "Our phones are unable to give us any information regarding a caller's identity," read a letter published in 1989.

A Nightline member "will never talk about something that happens in a call outside of Nightline," said the coordinator. "No records are kept, and nothing will ever leave Nightline."

#### Several weeks of training

A Nightline listener is required to complete a substantial amount of training before he or she is allowed to receive calls. Also, all Nightline listeners are required to periodically attend workshops to review and learn new skills. Generally, the initial training lasts for several weeks and is "pretty intensive," said McGlothin. The training is "broad ... [and] it covers a lot of types of different issues."

The more experienced staffers teach the initial training period. The experienced staffers consult with the Mental Health professionals before training new staffers. "The

training has been established and running well for quite some time," said McGlothin. "The actual training is run by the students."

Most of the training is done through role-playing exercises. After recording a mock session, an experienced listener critiques the trainees and teaches them "how to listen ... in a way that [Nightline] feels is helpful and appropriate," said the coordinator.

Additionally, the trainee is provided with information on "different issues and different approaches to taking calls," said the coordinator. The initial training is "a combination of reading the information ... and practicing taking calls in the mock setup." The other main component of the training is to learn how to search for information for a caller.

However, the training does not end there. Listeners attended weekly meetings with an advisor and several other Nightline listeners to review topics. These advisors include professors around MIT and professionals from the Mental Health Department at MIT Medical. These sessions provide listeners with a place to talk about a difficult call. "I can tell [the group] about my call," said the coordinator. And the members of the session can "tell me what I could have done better."

Also, listeners have to participate in two half-day training seminars during a semester. During these sessions a speaker will come to discuss a particular issue that Nightline receives calls about. For instance, a speaker might be an expert in "suicide, eating disor-

ders or any number of things," said McGlothin.

#### How Nightline is advised

Nightline receives support from the Dean's office and the Mental Health Department. Although Nightline has a large pool of faculty and mental health professionals to draw from, it remains very much a student organization. The individuals who advise Nightline are members of the MIT faculty or the Mental Health Department. "They've always had those people as resources," said McGlothin. "But the philosophy of Nightline is, and always has been, that it's very much student run."

McGlothin said that she does not involve herself in many of Nightline's operations, but serves "as a back up and to provide supervision," and to "meet with the coordinators ... to go over issues that have come up."

"All of the decisions are made by students," said the coordinator. Except for some advice and financial support, "everything is student run and student staffed."

#### Why Nightline is needed

Nightline is one of the many resources that students can use if they are need of any type of mental health service. Although students can turn to Counseling and Support Services or the Medical Department for support, "Nightline is unique in that it is anonymous and confidential," said McGlothin.

Also, "Nightline is something that you can immediately pick up the phone and decide that

you want to talk to somebody." Nightline is a resource for many people "who might not be sure yet if they are ready to go and get some kind of help," said McGlothin.

They "might have an easier time calling and talking to someone anonymously." Also, Nightline listeners are students and this "offers a perspective... that is different from going and talking to a professional," said McGlothin.

#### To join Nightline

Currently, Nightline is made up of 30 students. It is composed of both undergraduates as well as graduate students. "We're always looking for new people," said the coordinator. If a student is interested in joining Nightline, he or she should call and let the listener know his or her intentions. The listener will answer any questions that the caller might have about the program.

Then they set up a face-to-face interview with some of the staffers and advisors. The interview is a "fairly lengthy interview process," said McGlothin. People who are selected as listeners find it a "very cool way to help the MIT community," said the coordinator. Also, Nightline listeners volunteer their time — they do not get paid.

The number for Nightline on-campus is x3-8800. This number is often times referred to as "Def Tuv Tuv Oper Oper" (referring to the set of letters corresponding to each number on a touch tone phone). The number from off campus is (617) 253-8800.



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- What is the schedule?
- Wasn't Holy Week last week?

<http://web.mit.edu/ocf>

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Also...join us for vespers on Bright Wednesday at 6PM...see the schedule on the webpage for details.



**April  
25, 2000**

# COMICS

# NEWS

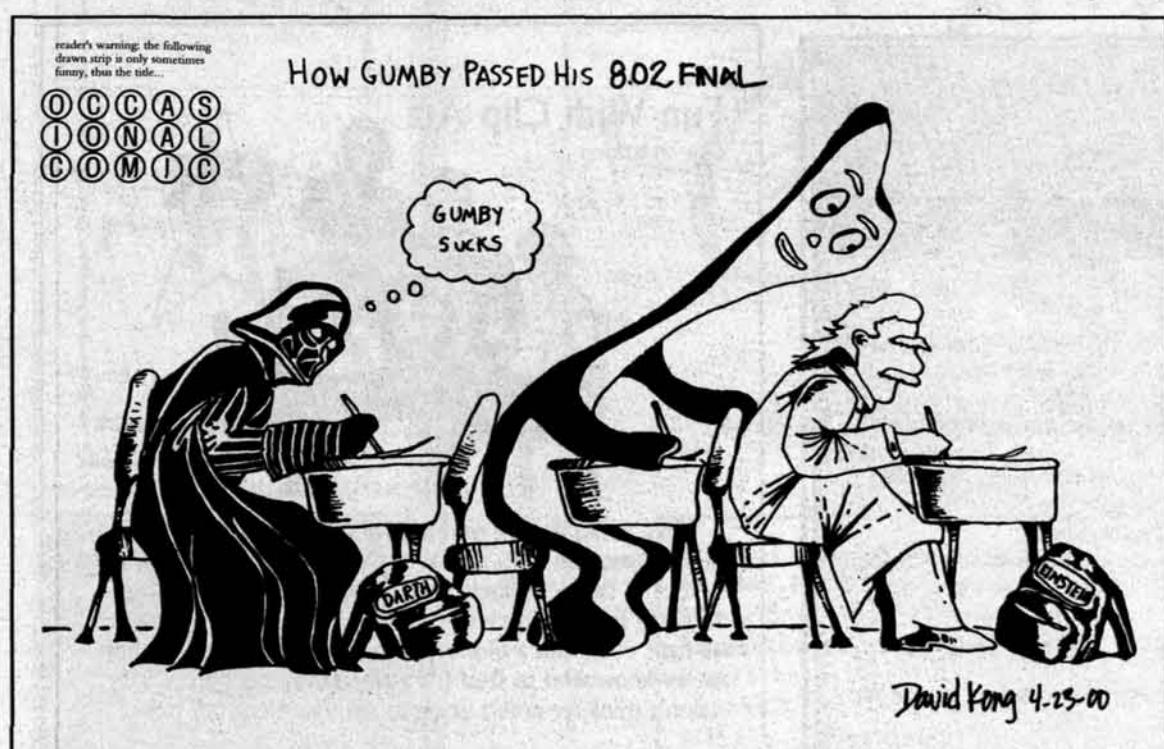
# The Tech

## **the crass rat**



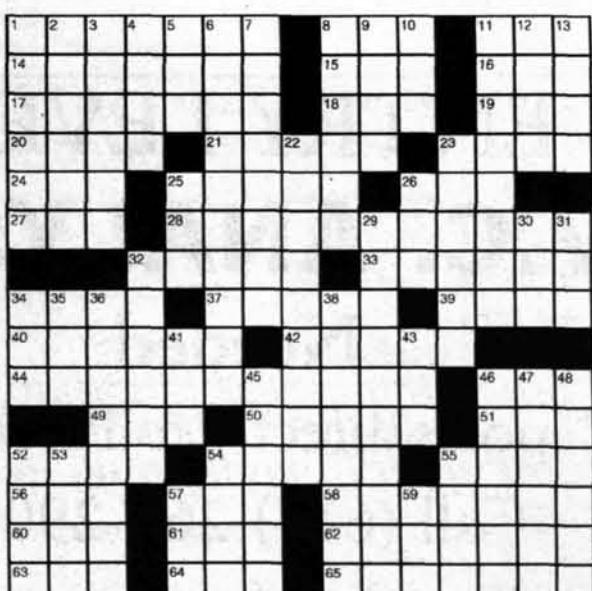
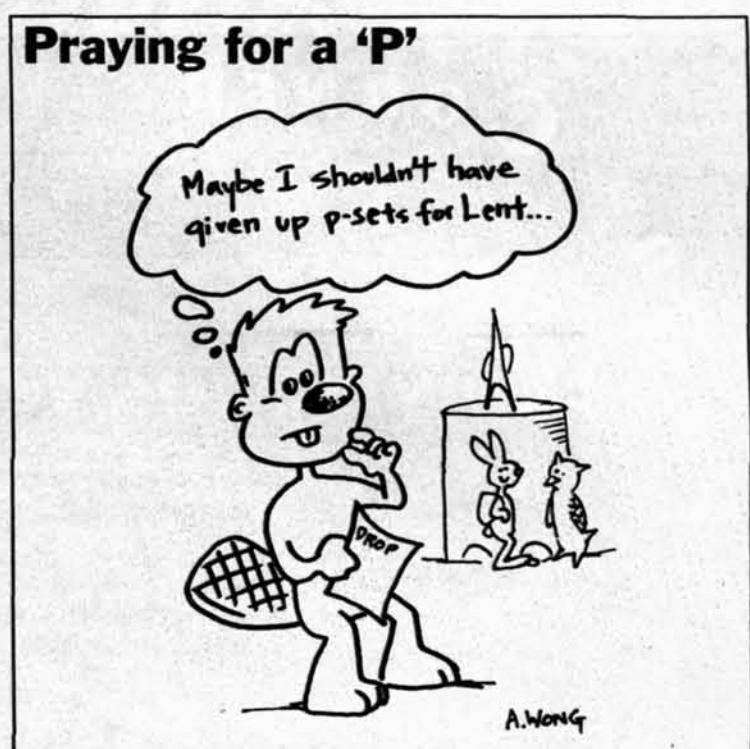
Xippo's Courseload

SOLAR C. OLUGE BEFOLK



# Crossword Puzzle

- | ACROSS                |                      | DOWN             |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 1 Good day, Yves      | 37 Deflects          | 1 Emblems        |
| 8 Sen. Kennedy        | 39 Itsy-bitsy        | 2 Baltimore      |
| 11 Sack               | 40 "___ Knowledge"   | ballplayer       |
| 14 Daughter of King   | 42 Conical condo     | 3 Spy            |
| Minos                 | 44 Speculative       | 4 Tight spots    |
| 15 A Gershwin         | 46 Org. of Couples   | 5 Pindaric       |
| 16 Notable period     | 49 Fruit drink       | 6 "The ___ Molly |
| 17 Least illuminated  | 50 Chestnut-and-     | Brown"           |
| 18 Blighted tree      | white horses         | 7 Go get         |
| 19 Edge               | 51 Compete           | 8 Man's jewelry  |
| 20 Large quantity     | 52 Early car maker   | 9 Perry's penner |
| 21 Raging             | 54 Mold, mildew and  | 10 Hoover, e.g.  |
| 23 Offense or         | smut                 | 11 Thiamine      |
| defense, e.g.         | 55 Pealed            | deficiency       |
| 24 Building branch    | 56 Be in poor health | 12 Desiccated    |
| 25 Hill or Loos       | 57 California fort   | 13 Sports event  |
| 26 Internet           | 58 Lettuce choice    | 22 Heed          |
| 27 Visualize          | 60 Golfer's gadget   | 23 Legislative   |
| 28 Lack of definition | 61 Old cloth         | body             |
| 32 Use a razor        | 62 Four-time Indy    | 25 Cinder        |
| 33 Monotonously       | winner               | 26 Take first    |
| unchanging            | 63 Newman movie      | 29 Neighbor of C |
| 34 Pretentiously      | 64 Look over         | 30 Sat. follower |
| creative              | 65 Augusta National  |                  |
|                       | event                |                  |

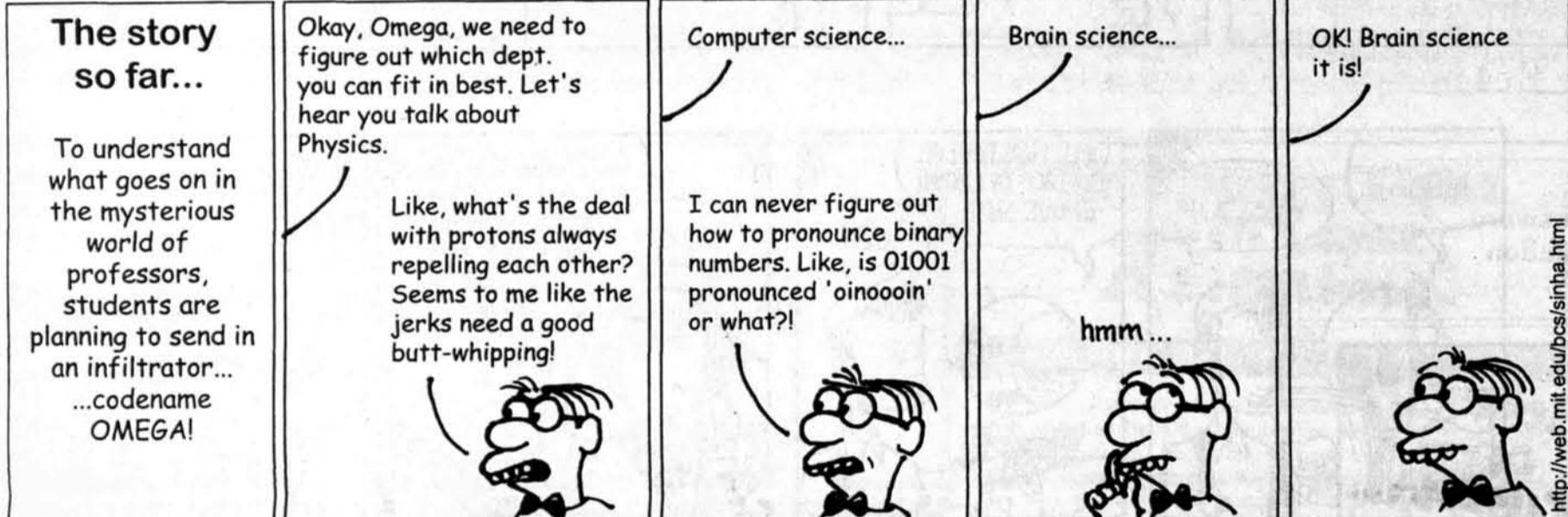


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*Solution, page 11*

**Down with Science (da Firenze)**

by Jennifer DiMase

**@edu**<http://web.mit.edu/bcs/sinha.html>**proognition**

precognizant i  
revelled in the brief flare  
seeing death in birth  
wide-eyed, unbelieving:

expecting each moment to  
awake  
to open-eyed see the dream  
that ceases not, is dark, which  
stands at the head and tail,  
two-faced.

you laughed at my fears, with  
pique  
that i should think of such a  
thing:

of love not eternal, of circles and  
waves  
patterns. i said this did not fit.

you held me and you spoke,  
stroking my hair  
and for brief moments i - i  
heard lullaby in threnody, but  
no fool i: i saw the pipers wore  
masks.

precognizant i  
saw the end from beginning,  
pain  
fleet running, final  
refuge in others' arms.

-C. Scott Ananian, 20-Apr-2000

**Fun With Clip Art**

Aaron Isaksen



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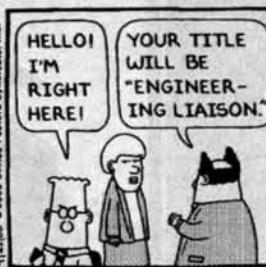
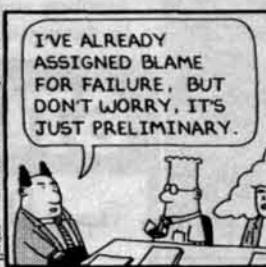
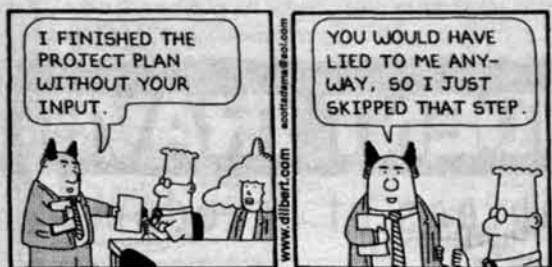
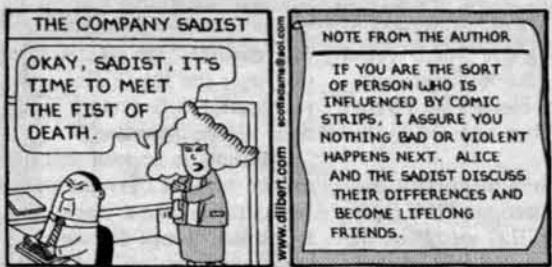
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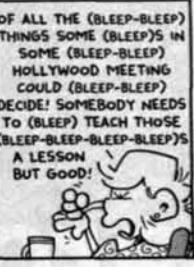


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**FoxTrot**

by Bill Amend

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- Betsy Schumacker Award
- Howard W. Johnson Award
- Malcolm G. Kispert Awards
- James R. Killian, Jr. Community Service Award
- Order of Omega New Member Education Award
- Reid Weedon '41 Alumni Relations Award
- Frederick Gardiner Fassett, Jr. Awards
- Edward L. Horton Fellowship Award
- Irwin Sizer Award for the Most Significant Improvement in MIT Education
- Frank E. Perkins Award
- Graduate Student Council Teaching Awards
- Goodwin Medal

Everett Moore Baker Memorial Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

- Bose Award for Excellence in Teaching
- Arthur C. Smith Award
- Kristen E. Finnegan Prize
- Albert G. Hill Prize
- Laya W. Wiesner Award
- Laya Wiesner Community Award
- Ronald E. McNair Scholarship Award
- Association of MIT Alumnae (AMITA) Senior Academic Award
- Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts
- Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Awards
- Harold and Arlene Schnitzer Prize in the Visual Arts
- Priscilla King Gray Award for Public Service
- James N. Murphy Award
- Gordon Y Billard Award
- Karl Taylor Compton Prizes

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# UA Tables Motion for Direct Election of Councillors

By Dana Levine  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Undergraduate Association defeated legislation at last night's Council meeting which would have allowed for the direct election of UA Councillors.

The bill, co-authored by Christopher R. Rezek '99 and newly-elected Vice President Mendel Chuang

'02, would have replaced the current model of councillor selection with a standardized system overseen by the UA. The current system allows each dorm and the Interfraternity Council to elect their representatives through a method of their own choice.

The motion failed by an 8-7-5 vote, but was eventually tabled for the next UA council meeting.

Rezek drew a historical comparison to the 18th amendment, which switched selection of U.S. Senators from the state legislatures to popular vote. "I think that proportional voting has a track record for representing what people really think," he said.

Chuang believes that making the timing of elections uniform "will

get more people to vote."

Rezek said the bill failed because "there was a lot of confusion around it." Discussion of the motion led to a number of amendments, including one which would have split the nine IFC representatives into five elected by FSILG members and four selected by the IFC Council.

While the bill originally proposed popular election of IFC representatives by FSILG members, the IFC has traditionally appointed its members and was reluctant to give up this power.

"The thing that you have to remember is that they are not IFC councillors. They are councillors representing residential FSILGs," said UA President Matthew L. McGann '00. "The IFC has jurisdiction over the residential and non-residential ILG system and their input will be important."

McGann is hopeful that the bill can be revised over the next few weeks to become a viable piece of legislation. "I hope that we can make some compromises and be able to solve the problems that the UA council currently has," McGann said.

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### On Campus Interviews

April 28, 2000  
MIT Building 34, Room 401  
50 Vassar Street  
9:00am - 5:00pm

**MIT Campus Map:**  
<http://web.mit.edu/map.html>

### Contact Information

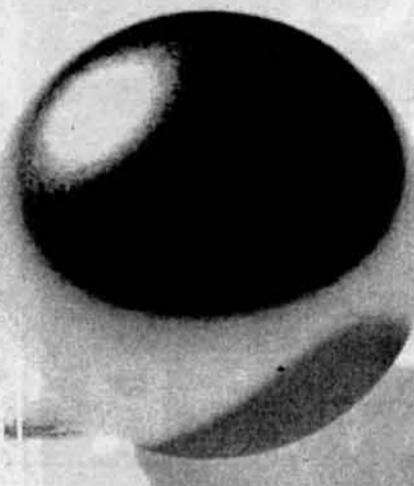
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## Petition, Protesters Preserve McDermott

**Protest, from Page 1**

but I didn't expect them to be so clueless [about student concerns]," Sarwate said.

The 11:00 a.m. meeting between Department of Facilities representatives and student protest leaders led to a tentative agreement to move the temporary offices to a paved area of the courtyard, thus preserving the Dot.

Dayal also was critical of the administration response, saying that she felt Vest "gave [the protesters] the runaround" when he arrived to speak with protesters early Monday morning.

Andrew G. Brooks G, a graduate resident tutor at Senior House, was exuberant after seeing the grassroots support for keeping the Dot, adding that the protest "is part of a larger malaise that students expound on campus."

Senior House resident Donna T. Wrublewski '00 said that she came to protest because she was "sick of MIT students taking it up the ass," adding that she believes MIT has a long way to go in restoring its credibility with students and the community.

Outgoing Undergraduate Association President Matthew L. McGann '00 was more conciliatory in his view of the administration's conduct, saying that he was "pleased that the administration, after making an initial blunder in not communicating with the MIT community, is stepping back to look at the issue."

### Protests last day and night

Students actually began gathering on McDermott Court Sunday night, when residents of East Campus pitched a tent on the Dot and camped out overnight to prevent early-morning construction.

About 50 protesters had gathered on the Dot by 6:00 a.m. to continue the effort, armed with posters and T-shirts created during the night. Originally, the protest was intended to keep construction crews from tearing up the grass, but work had been called off beforehand.

Students kept the protest alive throughout the day, urging passers-by to join the fight. Supporters outside the student body included Course 12 faculty, whose Green Building offices overlook the Dot, and staff members at Walker Memorial.



WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI—THE TECH  
Protest organizer Geeta Dayal '01 holds a sign on McDermott Court yesterday morning in support of stopping construction on the "Dot."

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# Lack of Direct Communication From Facilities Irks Students

**McDermott Court**, from Page 1

that did not involve tearing up the lawn.

"We've considered a number of alternatives over the last six months," Sirianni said. "This is an enormously difficult project to do." McDermott court was selected because of its proximity to Building 18.

"We're displacing the faculty," Sirianni said. "We're trying to keep all of the labs intact." Office space will be converted to laboratory space as needed, and offices will be relocated to the TFOs.

"The idea is to create office space adjacent to the building and have a covered walkway into the building," Sirianni said. "It will be

close to their labs."

Sirianni acknowledged that students and faculty would be adversely affected by the project. "It's very problematic," she said. "We understand this is going to be a real tough one for the community for a long time. It's very disruptive."

#### Students informed at last minute

The first major announcement of the construction was an e-mail Davis sent to an administrative mailing list last Friday.

Ruth Davis notified the community over the administrative query on Friday, and it was in anticipation of people being out there and knowing that the full article was going to run in *Tech Talk*," Sirianni said.

However, the story about the McDermott construction was not planned until this Wednesday, after work was scheduled to begin.

Davis' announcement said that "on this coming Monday, April 24th, the circle in McDermott Court ...will have its soil removed in preparation for the temporary faculty offices that will be placed there in early May. These 'TFOs' will remain there for the three-year period that the building will be under construction."

Sirianni said that the project involved "the complete renovation of that building" and that three years would be necessary because the building will remain two-thirds occupied. Construction is scheduled to begin late this summer.

# Fraternities Continue Hosting Rush Events

**Spring Rush**, from Page 1

hosting individual events. Theta Xi had a pinball event and a Red Sox game last weekend. Andrew D. Berkheimer '01, rush chair for the fraternity, said that "a few guys came to both, which was about what he expected."

Berkheimer emphasized that

Theta Xi's spring rush was targeted primarily at getting underclassmen interested so that they could rush in the fall.

Other fraternities, such as Alpha Epsilon Pi, chose not to participate in the IFC spring rush. AEPi has no plans for recruitment on its own this spring, according to AEPi Rush Chair Jordan S. Adler '01.

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BY ELI STONE

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# Krugman Advised President On Trade

**Krugman, from Page 1**

some of his economic views. He favors strong unions, education to improve workers' skills, and government redistribution of income to reduce inequality.

Krugman came under fire for some of his views, including his theory that the global economy only has a limited effect on the U.S.

"If an op-ed or column does not greatly upset a substantial number of people, the author has wasted the space," Krugman said on his web site.

Blanchard said, "That's his strength — to express strong views."

Krugman was unavailable for comment.

**web.mit.edu/seniorweek**

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# SPORTS

## Kendo Drops Match Against Harvard U.

Young MIT Team Scores Surprising Upsets

By Yu-Im Loh  
and Andrew Campbell  
TEAM MEMBERS

Just two weeks after its intercollegiate debut, the MIT Kendo Club was at it again, this time on the

home court of DuPont against the Harvard-Radcliffe Kendo Club this past Saturday. The prize was the Himeno Cup, named in honor of the dedicated instructor of both clubs, Junji Himeno, who is presently a visiting scholar at Harvard's Reischauer Institute and is a highly ranked 7-dan master of the art of kendo.

Anxious to make this inaugural tournament a success, both clubs put their best foot forward in the first ever kendo contest held at MIT. The event saw eighteen Harvard kendo players compete against ten MIT players. Of the 10 MIT kendoists,

The event was honored by the presence of Professor Shigeru Miyagawa at MIT, who will be the MIT Kendo Club's faculty advisor.

## Men's Lacrosse Snips Babson 8-7

Victory Over Rival Babson Awards Engineers Pilgrim League Playoff Berth

By Justin M. Verdirame  
TEAM MEMBER

The men's lacrosse team kept its playoff hopes alive with an exciting 8-7 victory over Babson this Saturday on the turf.

Long stick middie Chris Wilmer '02 made a game-saving strip with 4 seconds left to preserve the victory. The

Engineers moved to 6-3 and 2-1 in conference standing. The offense was led by attackman Matt Van Horne '02, who had 3 goals and four assists on the day. The defense was led by Charles A. Toye '00, who limited Babson's leading scorer Brad Otis to one goal and two assists.

### MIT starts game strong

Five minutes into the game, MIT opened the scoring with goals by attackman Rick Chang '01 and midfielder Kurtis McKenney '01, just 25 seconds apart. Midfielder/attackman Eli Weinberg '02 got his only goal of the day when he beat All-American defenseman Brian Fitzgerald and put the ball past goalie Paul DeFina. Babson was able to answer with two goals on feeds to the crease. MIT extended the lead to 4-2 when Van Horne fed fellow attackman Pascal Rettig '01 for a goal with just 18 seconds remaining in the first.

Babson tied the game at 3-3 early in the second quarter when Scott Hoffman swept to his right and stuck it past MIT goalie Justin Verdirame '00. Kurtis McKenney's second goal of the day with 10:03 remaining put the Engineers in the lead again. Babson Brad Otis scored his only goal of the day to make the score 5-4 MIT at the half.

### MIT defense preserves victory

MIT opened the third quarter with two Van Horne goals and seemingly took control of the game. Babson scored with just 22 seconds left in the third quarter and gained some momentum heading into the fourth quarter.

Babson scored its second goal of the quarter with 8:31 remaining to tie the game. A slash on the play by

three were in their debut tournament appearance, and five in their second competition. While MIT fought valiantly, Harvard's more experienced club prevailed.

### Fighting begins

The first match set the tone for the competition. Cyrus Eyster '98, in his first time in bogu (armor), fought Harvard sempai Tara McAlister in a disciplined yet spirited performance. A major upset occurred in the second match when MIT's Hani U. Shakeel, graduate student in Technology & Policy, won his match, striking two surprise "men" (head) points in only his second time training in "bogu," the protective body armor necessary for advanced training.

In another highlight, one of the ladies of MIT's Kendo club, freshman Chin-Yan Wong scored an upset point against her much larger, more powerful male opponent, thus illustrating how technique and spirit prevails over brute force in Kendo.

Harvard's combined score ensured that the first MITKC vs. HRKC Himeno Cup would travel up Mass Ave. this year, but if Sat-



Andrew Campbell G, Sempai of the MIT Kendo Club, competes against a Harvard Kendo Club member in Saturday's Himeno Cup tournament in Dupont.

urday night's show was anything to go by, it will not remain North for long.

### Free sparring for fun

After the formalities were over, more fun was had by all when a half-hour session of "jigeiko" rounded up the event. Jigeiko is free spar-

ring, where pairs of kendoists try to hit as many points as possible on their opponents. Each sparring "match" lasts for a few minutes, after which kendoists rotate partners. The aim of jigeiko is to gain fighting experience, practice wazas (techniques) and improve endurance.

The event serves as a model of

good relations between Harvard and MIT at a student level and was followed by a social gathering and feast. The event further cemented the close ties between the two clubs. The Harvard club has been instrumental in aiding the year-old MIT Kendo Club through generous donations of equipment and time.

## UPCOMING HOME EVENT

On Tuesday, come watch the Men's Lacrosse team take on Wheaton College on the turf at 4:00 p.m. The Beavers plan to improve their 2-1 conference record by winning today.

## A.L. Central Division Is Cleveland's Crown Again

By Rory Pheiffer  
SPORTS COLUMNIST

Today we have the discussion of the American League Central, which will provide a very competitive race.

### Column

Unfortunately for the fans, the only tight race the Central presents is between second and fifth place, where last year only 12 games separated these two places (22 games separated the first and second place team). Not much will change this year in that regard.

The Cleveland Indians will once again run away with the division crown. The Indians have the best

batting line-up in either league top to bottom. The lead-off with Kenny Lofton (note Lofton is out with injury until June), follow with Omar Vizquel, then Roberto Alomar, Manny Ramirez, Jim Thome, Richie Sexson, David Justice, Travis Fryman, and finish with Sandy Alomar.

If that line-up doesn't strike fear into

an opposing pitcher, I can't think of

another line-up in baseball today

that could. Cleveland also has a very

credible starting staff, starting the

likes of lefty Chuck Finley, Bartolo

Colon, Charles Nagy, and Dave

Burba. These four guys have shown

that they can be very effective pitch-

ers, and they will each rack up their

fair share of wins this season.

### Minnesota Twins & Detroit Tigers

The Twins have taken the word "rebuilding" to a whole new level. Minnesota is loaded with young prospects, who are starting to form a cohesive unit. They are waiting to prove that they can bring the Twins back to the glory days of Puckett, Gaetti, and Hrbek. They have a long

way to go.

Tigers are another team that has constantly been using the "rebuilding" excuse as their reason for their woes. Their problem is that much of their talent which has been groomed was traded away in order to try and be competitive. Trading six players for Juan Gonzalez was more of a fan attraction move by the Tigers management than a game winner. He has yet to accept the Tigers astronomical contract offer of around \$140 million dollars for eight years. If Gonzalez does indeed leave the Tigers after this year, Detroit management will look like fools, and worse yet, so will the team.

### Kansas City Royals

They have a young, cohesive team. Last year, the Royals surprised everybody by winning 64 games with a team full of a bunch of no-names, but seeing how most were expecting a season with over 100 losses, 97 losses came as a pleasant surprise.

### Chicago White Sox

The White Sox, who last year took the honor of being the best of the rest. Look for them to do so again this year, beating out the Royals, Tigers, and Twins in that order. The Chisox's Magglio Ordoñez was perhaps the American League's biggest surprise, leading his team in home runs (30), RBIs (117), and total bases (318). If the Big Hurt Frank Thomas can keep his batting average above .300 and find his power stroke again, these two will be a great one-two combo. I look for the White Sox to continue to over-achieve just enough to edge out the Royals for second place in the division.

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Total
MIT	4	1	2	1	8
Babson	2	2	1	2	7

**Goals:** MIT- Matt Van Horne 3, Kurtis McKenney 2, Eli Weinberg 1, Rick Chang 1, Pascal Rettig 1. Babson- Brad Otis 1, Todd McDowell 1, Chris Darman 1, Chris Doyle 1, Scott Hoffman 1, Jason Pator 1, Patrick Reen 1. **Assists:** MIT- Eli Weinberg 2, Mike Rainey 2, Pascal Rettig 1, Matt Van Horne 1, Rick Chang 1. Babson- Brad Otis 2, Todd McDowell 1, Mike Welch 1. **Shots:** MIT- 25, Babson- 46. **Groundballs:** MIT- 44, Babson- 51. **Clears:** MIT- 20-33, Babson- 19-25. **EMO:** MIT- 0-0, Babson- 0-5. **Face-offs:** MIT- 9-15. **Saves:** MIT- Justin Verdirame 16 (7 GA), Babson Paul DeFina 7 (8 GA).